



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on the occasion of the Security Council meeting devoted to the impact of AIDS on peace and security in Africa (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Moptar OUANE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Message sent from Bamako on 10 January 2000
by His Excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare,
President of the Republic of Mali, current
Chairman of ECOWAS, to the President of the
Security Council

In my capacity as current Chairman of ECOWAS, I have the pleasure to address to you my very warm congratulations, on behalf of the Governments and peoples of our subregion, for the felicitous initiative that you have taken in devoting a meeting of the Security Council to the consideration of the impact of AIDS on peace and security in Africa.

This initiative without doubt is making it possible to break the collusive and unacceptable silence which today permits the spread of AIDS. This silence is aggravated by the well-known lack of means which to date have been provided in order to stem this scourge, whose scope and gravity need no further demonstration, as the following figures show:

Of the 33 million persons infected by the AIDS virus throughout the world, 22 million, or 70 per cent, are in sub-Saharan Africa;

Today, there are 8 million AIDS orphans, and five persons are infected with AIDS with each passing minute.

This pandemic is tragically endangering the future of our countries and constitutes even in some regions a factor for economic and social destabilization threatening peace and security in Africa.

In view of this alarming situation, we must organize ourselves from now on in order to wage a crusade against AIDS, in which African leaders must play their responsible role.

I call for a significant increase in the commitment by the international community within the framework of this crusade in order to intensify world research into AIDS, expand prevention and provide the necessary support to the millions of persons affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly, the men, women and children of Africa infected by the pandemic.

Expressing the hope that, beyond the historic step which the Security Council has just taken with regard to enhancing awareness of this pandemic, the current meeting will lead to specific actions which open up the path of hope for all mankind, the path of equitable treatment for all, I wish you complete success in your work.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Alpha Oumar KONARE
President of the Republic
current Chairman of ECOWAS
